

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 7-13, as amended, remain herein. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of former claim 6. Claims 2-6 have been cancelled. Claims 7-11 have been amended to depend on claim 1 instead of claim 6. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification (see, e.g., original claim 6 and FIG. 10).

Claims 1 and 3-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over May U.S. Patent 5,486,051 in view of Cochran U.S. Patent 5,186,543. The Office Action alleged that May discloses the claimed device except for the projected parts, but that Cochran teaches projected parts integrally projected to inner and outer face sides of a bag body.

Applicants' claim 1 recites a sealing bag with a chuck, comprising: a bag body which opens on one side; a chuck having a pair of tapes bonded to the bag body near an opening part of the bag body and opposed to each other along the opening part of the bag body, and a pair of female and male clamping parts formed on the faces of the pair of tapes opposed to each other and disengageably clamping with each other along the opening part of the bag body to openably/closably seal the bag body; and projected parts on said pair of tapes formed in projected lines generally along the edges of the pair of tapes towards the opening part of the bag body, wherein each projected part protrudes both inwardly and outwardly so that it is functionally accessible from the inner and outer face sides of the bag body;

wherein the pair of tapes is bonded to the inside of the opening part in the inner face of the bag body so that the projected parts are positioned inside the opening edge part of the bag body; the projected parts on the pair of tapes are not bonded to the inner face of the bag body; and the projected parts are in different positions with respect to a depth direction of the bag body.

May does not teach or suggest the claimed sealing bag. Indeed, as acknowledged in the Office Action, May does not include projected parts protruding inwardly and outwardly so that they are functionally accessible from the inner and outer face sides of the bag body, and positioned inside the opening edge part of the bag body.

Cochran does not teach or suggest what is missing from May. While Cochran discloses projected parts on separate sides of a bag (Cochran at FIG. 12), Cochran states that such embodiment is not preferred (see Cochran at column 5, lines 10-15). In addition, in Cochran, the projected parts of FIG. 12 are not positioned inside the opening edge part of the bag body but outside and above the opening edge part of the bag. Furthermore, while May discloses a chuck on the inner face of the bag, nothing in Cochran or May teaches or suggests applicants' claimed projected part which (1) are positioned inside the opening edge part of the bag body; and (2) protrude both inwardly and outwardly. Applicants' specification explains:

However, when the chuck is simply disposed on the bag body inner face, and the projections are only formed, the projections can be projected only on the inner face side of the bag, and this cannot be always said to be sufficient as the means for preventing the fingers from slipping. When the chuck is fused to the bag body, the projections disposed on the bag inner face are fused together with the chuck, and flattened, and there has also been a possibility that the projections do not function as the finger nonslip means. Furthermore, to prevent the projections from being fused or flattened, for example, it is also considered that the projections are formed to be long beforehand in such a manner as to have certain lengths even if fused. However, when the projections are simply lengthened, the projections easily fall at the time of manufacturing of the bags, the manufacturing becomes difficult. Moreover, since the projections project long from the inside of the bag, the fingers are not easily inserted into the bag opening part, and additionally there has been a possibility that an opening/closing property of the bag is impaired.

Applicants' specification at page 7, lines 4-24; emphasis added here.

In addition, the projected parts in Cochran are separately formed on opposite sides of the bag and are not, as required in applicants' claim 1, each protruding both inwardly and

outwardly so that they are functionally accessible from the inner and outer face sides of the bag body. As explained in applicants' specification:

Moreover, the projected parts 20 substantially uniformly and integrally projecting to the inner and outer face sides of the bag body 1 in this manner can be simultaneously held in the same place from the inside/outside of the bag with two finger or the like. As shown in FIG. 4, each projection width on the inner or outer face side of the bag can be reduced as compared with the projection widths ( $w_1$  and  $w_2$  shown in FIG. 4(b)) of the projections of a conventional sealing bag (see FIG. 12) which individually project to the inner and outer face sides of the bag. As a result, the total projection width can be reduced as compared with the conventional bag (see  $W$  shown in FIG. 4(a) and  $w$  shown in (b) of the same figure). Therefore, in the sealing bag provided with the projected parts 20 of the present embodiment, for example, the problem is eliminated that the manufacturing becomes difficult by occurrence of falling or the like of the projection at the time of the manufacturing of the bag body 1 or that the projection projects long from the bag inner face and the fingers are not easily inserted in the opening part. Therefore, a small-sized sealing bag superior in the easy-to-unseal property can be efficiently manufactured.

Applicants' specification at page 25, line 10 to page 26, line 1; emphasis added here. Applicants' presently claimed invention solves the problems of conventional sealing bags by providing the claimed projected parts which protrude both inwardly and outwardly so that they are functionally accessible from the inner and outer face sides of the bag body (see applicants' specification from page 6, line 19 to page 8, line 9; page 30, line 14 to page 31, line 4; and Figure 7).

Furthermore, neither Cochran nor May teaches or suggests applicants' claimed projected parts being in different positions with respect to a depth direction of the bag body.

Thus, none of May, Cochran, or anything else in this record discloses or suggests applicants' claimed invention. In addition, there is no disclosure or suggestion in any of May, Cochran, or anything else in this record that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

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For all of the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully request that all rejections be withdrawn all that all claims 1 and 7-13 be allowed. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge or credit any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. Should the Examiner deem that any further amendments would be desirable in placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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